
In Memoriam



ROBERT ALWAY PEERS, M.D.
1875-1970

ROBERT ALWAY PEERS, M.D., a pioneer in tuberculosis, died at his home in Palo Alto on February 7, 1970. He was 94. He was a native of Woodstock, Ontario, and was graduated from Trinity Medical College, Toronto, with the degree of M.D.C.M. in 1899.

In the English tradition and custom of that time, Dr. Peers purchased a practice, that of a physician in Colfax, California, and entered general practice in 1899. These were horse-and-buggy days. Dr. Peers was a vigorous young man and this author, his close friend and admirer, enjoyed listening to stories of the ardors of practice in the snow in the Sierra Nevadas. He was a humanitarian, and his fees were always in proportion to his patient's circumstances.

He became a naturalized citizen in 1904. In 1908 he founded the Colfax School for the Tuberculous, served as its medical director until 1941, and remained as a consultant until his retirement in 1946. Many physicians "took the cure" there. Some stayed for several years under his tutelage and then left to become prominent locally, nationally and internationally as specialists in diag-

nosis, treatment and research in diseases of the pulmonary system. He was widely honored in this field, and in others as well, where his accomplishments were many.

During World War I, Dr. Peers served as a captain in the American Red Cross and had seven hospitals in the south of France under his jurisdiction. He was a member of the California State Board of Public Health from 1914 to 1941.

He was president of the California Medical Association in 1936 and among his medical honors was the first Certificate of Merit granted by the California Medical Association, and a 50-year pin marking half a century of membership in the association. He served in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association 1937-1944 and was a member of the Board of Trustees in 1945.

Dr. Peers was Mayor of Colfax for 23 years and was twice a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

To his younger colleagues and friends, Dr. Peers was always referred to in conversation respectfully as "The Doctor" in the connotation of all that was fine in the traditions of our profession.

RAY C. ATKINSON, M.D.
Oakland

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ANDERSON, MILFORD XERXES, Corona del Mar. Died February 17, 1970 in Los Angeles of malignant disease, aged 63. Graduate of Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, 1933. Licensed in California in 1933. Doctor Anderson was a member of the Orange County Medical Association.

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BRUFF, WILLIAM CORTLAND, Whittier. Died January 24, 1970 in Whittier of heart disease, aged 73. Graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1922. Licensed in California in 1925. Doctor Bruff was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Persons wishing to do so may make contributions to the Physicians' Benevolence Fund to honor the memory of a member who has died. Members of the family will be notified that such a contribution has been made and the name of the donor will be supplied.

Checks should be addressed to Physicians' Benevolence Fund, Inc., California Medical Association, 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102.